

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19, which starts with "These objects are solved by the...".

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 24, as follows:

A dishwasher according to the present invention comprises at least one washing container and a heat damping layer which at least partially surrounds the washing container wherein the heat damping layer has a variable thermal conductivity which can be adjusted to at least two different thermal conductivity values. By this means, on the one hand the heat damping layer can be adjusted for example during the washing operation so that it has a lower thermal conductivity and thus the thermal energy built up in the washing container is preserved. On the other hand, during the drying process the heat damping layer can be adjusted for example so that it has a high thermal conductivity and thereby ~~allow~~allows diffusion of the thermal energy from the washing container outside to the surroundings.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 13, as follows:

The dishwasher according to the invention also has the advantage that no moisture-laden air is delivered to the surrounding atmosphere, thus avoiding harmful influences on the furniture e.g. mould formation. Furthermore, the washed items do not come in contact with the external air during drying so that a high standard of hygiene can be ensured. In addition to the advantages of energy saving, the ~~loading~~load on the washed items ~~are~~is lower as a result of the

reduction in the temperature of the clear rinsing liquid so that the risk of hairline cracks in ceramic crockery or earthenware vessels is reduced for example.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 27, as follows:

During a washing operation the variable heat damping layer 5 is adjusted by the processes described above so that it has a low thermal conductivity coefficient  $k$  of about  $0.3 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$  and thus ~~provide~~provides high heat damping. As a result a heat damping layer 5 is produced around the interior 2 of the washing container 1 which holds the thermal energy built up during the washing operation in the washing container 1 substantially in the interior 2 of the washing container 1.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 10, as follows:

Since the outer walls of the dishwasher (not shown) generally consist of metal, these are especially well suited as cooling surfaces. By producing good heat-conducting contact between the variable heat damping layer 5 and the outer wall of the washing container 1, this ensures effective removal of heat from the inner wall 3 of the washing container 1 through the variable heat damping layer ~~35~~ and the bitumen layer 4 to the outer wall of the dishwasher and then to the surroundings. The inner wall 3 of the washing container 1 can consist of plastic or it can also be made of a metal sheet, especially aluminium to promote the condensation of the moist warm air located in the washing container during drying operation.